

UNCLASSIFIED

Department of State

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ACTION ARA-16

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2/17/81

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INFO OCT-01 ADS-00 IHR-10 SS-15 CIAE-00 H-01 NSC-25  
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P 172018Z FEB 81  
FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8509

BUENOS AIRES 1129

E.O. 12065: GDS 2/17/87 (SHLAUDMAN, HARRY V.) OR-M  
TAGS: SHUM, AR  
SUBJECT: GOA PROTEST OVER HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT

REF: 80 BUENOS AIRES 1159

1. AMBASSADOR HECTOR SUBIZA, ACTING DIRECTOR OF POLITICAL AFFAIRS, SUMMONED ME TO THE FOREIGN MINISTRY LATE AFTERNOON FEBRUARY 13 TO RECEIVE A NOTE PROTESTING THE PUBLICATION OF OUR HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT ON ARGENTINA. SUBIZA RECALLED THAT AN ALMOST IDENTICAL NOTE WAS DELIVERED TO MY PREDECESSOR LAST YEAR (REFTEL). ON THAT OCCASION, SUBIZA NOTED, THE NOTE WAS HANDED OVER BY THE SECOND RANKING OFFICER OF THE FOREIGN MINISTRY, UNDER SECRETARY CAVANDOLI. HE SAID WE SHOULD TAKE ACCOUNT OF THE FACT THAT THIS YEAR THE NOTE WAS BEING DELIVERED BY A LOWER-RANKING FUNCTIONARY. SUBIZA ALSO ASKED THAT WE UNDERSTAND THE NECESSITY TO SATISFY ARGENTINE PUBLIC OPINION BY MAKING THIS PROTEST. HE ADDED THAT HE HOPED THAT THERE WOULD BE NO NEED FOR SUCH A PROTEST NEXT YEAR. I LIMITED MY RESPONSE TO SAYING THAT I WOULD INFORM MY GOVERNMENT.

2. (U) THE NOTE (COPY BEING POUCHED TO ARA/SC) AGAIN EXPRESSES THE "DISPLEASURE" OF THE GOVERNMENT OF ARGENTINA OVER THE "VIOLATION OF THE PRINCIPLE OF NON-INTERVENTION IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF OTHER STATES" REPRESENTED BY THE PUBLICATION OF THIS REPORT. THE NOTE STATES THAT "THE FACT THAT A GOVERNMENT ANNOYANCES TO ITSELF THE RIGHT TO PASS JUDGMENT ON PROBLEMS AND CIRCUMSTANCES THAT ESSENTIALLY CORRESPOND TO THE DOMESTIC JURISDICTION OF ANOTHER STATE, AND FURTHERMORE TO GIVE PUBLICITY TO ITS PRONOUNCEMENTS AND EVALUATIONS, DOES NOT COINCIDE WITH THE PRINCIPLES WHICH SHOULD INSPIRE BILATERAL RELATIONS BETWEEN TWO SOVEREIGN STATES." THE NOTE ALSO CONVEYS THE "SERIOUS PREOCCUPATION" OF THE MINISTRY WITH RESPECT TO THIS "PRACTICE OF PERMANENT ANALYSIS AND CRITICAL POLITICAL JUDGMENT" AS NOT BEING COMPATIBLE WITH THE GOOD WILL THAT SHOULD GUIDE THE RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES.

3. AS IN THE CASE OF LAST YEAR'S EXERCISE, THE FOREIGN MINISTRY IMMEDIATELY RELEASED THE FACT OF THE PROTEST AND THE TEXT OF THE NOTE TO THE PRESS. (THE PRESS HAS NOT THIS YEAR CARRIED OUR FULL REPORT ON ARGENTINA AS IT DID LAST YEAR. ONLY EXCERPTS IN WIRE-SERVICE ACCOUNTS HAVE APPEARED.) SATURDAY'S PAPERS CARRIED GENERALLY FACTUAL ACCOUNTS OF THE MATTER. WE HAD HEARD PREVIOUSLY THAT THE GOA INTENDED TO HOLD OFF UNTIL THE TWO RECENT CODELS WERE OUT OF TOWN. BUT THE NEWS BROKE BEFORE CODEL SMITH HAD DEPARTED. THE CONGRESSMAN REFUSED COMMENT WHEN ASKED ABOUT THE ISSUE BY REPORTERS AT THE AIRPORT.

4. COMMENT: WE HAVE HAD NO SERIOUS COMPLAINTS ABOUT THE SUBSTANCE OF THE REPORT ITSELF. TWO SOURCES IN THE PRESIDENCY DESCRIBED IT TO AN EMBOFF AS FAIR AND BALANCED. HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVISTS HERE

HAVE GIVEN US THE SAME REACTION. NEVERTHELESS, I HOPE THE DEPARTMENT WILL RECONSIDER THE UTILITY OF THESE ANNUAL REPORT CARDS AND THE PROSPECTS FOR CONGRESSIONAL AGREEMENT TO THEIR ABOLITION OR MODIFICATION. IF THEY ARE FOUND TO BE STILL NECESSARY, I URGE THAT THE DEPARTMENT REEXAMINE THEIR FORMAT WITH AN EYE TO FOCUSING THE REPORTS ON STRAIGHTFORWARD ACCOUNTING OF GROSS VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS. THE SOCIOLOGICAL MATERIAL THAT NOW CLUTTERS UP THESE ESSAYS SEEMS TO ME BOTH EXTRANEIOUS AND PRESUMPTIOUS.  
SHLAUDMAN

AQ Ø34

ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)

U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS

Margaret P. Grafeld, Director

☒ Release ☐ Excise ☐ Deny

Exemption(s):

Declassify: ☐ In Part ☒ In Full

☐ Classify as ☐ Extend as ☐ Downgrade to

Date ☐ Declassify on ☐ Reason

Lot 82D275  
Box 3541  
(2/17)